Say CIA Moves to IBM For Project Safe CPUs

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By JACK ROBERTSON

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency has given the green light for a substitution of IBM 3081 mainframes in place of a Burroughs B 7800 and other Burroughs computers in the CIA's Project Safe, reliable sources indicated last week...

TRW Systems, prime contractor for the intelligence data processing system, has gotten CIA approval to make the computer change, the sources said.

A CIA spokesman declined to comment, claiming any such actions were a matter between the prime contractor TRW and its subcontractors; however, sources said the CIA was heavily involved in trying to get the computerized global data network running after a long history of reported technical troubles.

TRW officials declined to comment. A Burroughs spokesman said only, that the firm still had a computer subcontract with TRW and had received no official word on any cancellation. puters in its winning bid for Project Safe, but then switched to Burroughs computers when the final contract was signed. Sources said Burroughs gave TRW a very attractive price for Project Safe computers in an attempt to break into the intelligence processing area.

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Sources believed that all parties to the troubled program shared the blame for failing to get the system running. CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency were jointly in charge of the program, and the divided agency responsibility only intensified problems, it was said.

DIA subsequently took steps to drop out of the program, as previously reported. It was not certain last week if DIA would participate in a restructured Project Safe using IBM computers.

Sources said IBM would also take a larger role in software development and integration of the computer system.

Project Safe reportedly is a massive intelligence data base and processing system, using a vast array of remote terminals around the world.